I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for selectively replacing objectionable content in a video program intended for viewing on a display screen comprising a first video signal with less-objectionable content, comprising:

an extraction device receiving at least a portion of the first video signal and configured to extract information therefrom;

a replacement control device;

a processor operatively coupled to said replacement control device and communicatively coupled to said extraction device for receiving at least a portion of said extracted information therefrom;

a memory coupled to said processor and storing a replacement criterion;

said processor programmed to identify replacement information in said extracted information;

a replacement video signal including said less-objectionable content communicatively coupled to said replacement control device; and

said processor programmed to cause said replacement control device to replace a portion of the first video signal with said replacement video signal in response to identifying replacement information that satisfies said replacement criterion, wherein said less-objectionable content comprises advertising and wherein the advertising only replaces a specified subregion of displayed video frames corresponding to the location of the objectionable content within the displayed video frames.

2.   Cancelled

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first video signal is selected from the group consisting of: a Digital Radio Broadcast signal, a broadcast television signal, a cable television signal, an RF signal, and an Internet signal.

4.   Cancelled

5.   Cancelled

6.   Cancelled

7.   Cancelled

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said replacement information is present in a vertical blanking interval of the first video signal.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said replacement information is present in a line 21 of the first video signal.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said replacement information is present in a Text field of the first video signal.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said replacement information includes information relating to a duration the portion of said first video signal is to be replaced in response to said replacement information satisfying said replacement criterion.

12.   Cancelled

13.   Cancelled

14.   Cancelled

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said replacement information includes content selected from the group consisting of: information identifying a portion of the first video signal having violent content, information identifying a portion of the first video signal having sexual content, and information identifying a portion of the first video signal having potentially objectionable language.

16.   Cancelled

17.   Cancelled

18.   Cancelled

19.   Cancelled

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said replacement information includes information relating to a time in the first video signal at which the replacing should begin.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said replacement information includes information relating to a level of intensity of the objectionable content.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
        said memory contains a plurality of words stored therein;
        said extraction device is configured to extract a closed caption signal from the first video signal;
        said processor receives said extracted closed caption signal and is programmed to compare words in said extracted closed caption signal with said words stored in said memory; and
        said processor causes said replacement device to replace an audio signal in response to determining that a word stored in said memory is present in said extracted closed caption signal.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said replacement criterion is received from a user.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of selectively replacing objectionable content in a first video signal intended for viewing on a display screen with less-objectionable content, said method comprising the steps of:

      storing a replacement criterion in a memory;

      receiving said less-objectionable content as a replacement video signal;

      receiving the first video signal;

      extracting replacement information from the first video signal;

      determining whether the extracted replacement information satisfies said replacement criterion; and

      replacing a portion of the first video signal with the replacement video signal in response to determining that said extracted replacement information satisfies said replacement criterion, wherein said less-objectionable content comprises advertising and wherein the advertising only replaces a specified subregion of displayed video frames corresponding to the location of the objectionable content within the displayed video frames.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said first video signal is selected from the group consisting of: a Digital Radio Broadcast signal, a broadcast television signal, a an cable television signal, an RF signal, and an Internet signal.

26.   Cancelled

27.   Cancelled

28.   Cancelled

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said replacement information is present in a vertical blanking interval of the first video signal.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said replacement information is present in a line 21 of the first video signal.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said replacement information is present in a Text field of the first video signal.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said replacement information includes information relating to a duration the portion of said first video signal should be replaced in response to said replacement information satisfying said replacement criterion.

33.   Cancelled

34.   Cancelled

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said replacement information is selected from the group consisting of: information identifying a portion of the first video signal having violent content, information identifying a portion of the first video signal having sexual content, and information identifying a portion of the first video signal having potentially objectionable language.

36.   Cancelled

37.   Cancelled

38.   Cancelled

39.   Cancelled

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said replacement information includes information relating to a relative time in the first video signal said replacement should begin.

41. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said replacement information includes information relating to the level of intensity of the objectionable content.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further including:

storing a plurality of words in said memory; extracting a closed caption signal from the first video signal;

comparing said closed caption signal with said words stored in said memory; and

replacing the word in an audio signal with less-objectionable content in response to determining that a word in said memory is present in said closed caption signal.

43. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of receiving said replacement criterion from a user.

44.   Cancelled

45. (Previously Presented) A method for selectively replacing objectionable content from a signal having both audio and video signal components intended for presentation on a display screen, said method comprising:

storing replacement criteria in a memory identifying disallowed video content;

receiving the signal;

extracting information from said signal identifying objectionable content in said signal;

determining whether said extracted information satisfies said replacement criteria; and

modifying the video signal component with replacement video data in response to determining that said extracted information satisfies said replacement criteria so that substantially only specified subregions of displayed video frames corresponding to disallowed video content are replaced with advertising.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said extracted information includes information relating to the duration the video signal component of said signal should be modified in response to said extracted information satisfying said replacement criteria.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said extracted information includes information relating to the level of intensity of the objectionable content.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of receiving said replacement criteria from a user.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said extracted information is present in the vertical blanking interval of a television signal.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said extracted information is present in line 21 of the television signal.

51. (Previously Presented) A device for selectively filtering objectionable content from a video program intended for viewing on a display screen comprising a video signal component, said device comprising:

an extraction device receiving all or part of said video signal component and configured to extract filter codes therefrom identifying potentially objectionable content in said video program;

a video control device;

a processor operatively coupled to said video control device and communicatively coupled to said extraction device for receiving extracted filter codes;

a memory coupled to said processor and storing criteria defining disallowed video content; and

said processor programmed to cause said video control device to selectively obscure substantially only subregions of displayed video frames corresponding to disallowed video content with advertising when extracted filter codes match said criteria.

52. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 51 wherein said filter codes define the coordinates of the subregions within the video frames.

53. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 52 wherein the subregions are rectangular regions encompassing the disallowed video content.